

cannot repeal the law of supply and demand. If we want to bring energy prices under control in this country, we ought to help the President and the Vice President understand that truth and say the only solution to high prices, Mr. President and Mr. Vice President, is increased supply for the demand that is built into our economy. As soon as they understand that and will work with this Congress to try to get increased supply in the various ways we have sent them legislation to do, we will then—and only then—begin to see these high prices come down.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the energy and water bill on appropriations has been held up. I understand that the distinguished minority leader has an objection to it. I share with Senators the importance of that bill. I suggest, hopefully, that the minority leader rethink this because I do have some confidence that he is not exclusively interested in partisan politics, and that perhaps this very good bill on energy and water could be passed and sent to the President; although, my hopes are dwindling.

Essentially, one looks at the energy and water appropriations bill, and while I would devote some time to the energy crisis, which my friend spoke about eloquently, I will interrupt my comments to say this to the Senator: Incredibly, there is a position being formulated by the Vice President's campaign to claim that George W. Bush and Dick Cheney would be bad for American energy consumers. Isn't that a joke?

What is bad for American energy consumers, and the reason gasoline prices are so high, and natural gases are skyrocketing, and we are growing in dependence upon foreign countries for our very lifeblood, for without energy, we have no economy. Of late, we have decided it must be so clean that the only thing we are using in any increased abundance is natural gas. We are even shying away, in this administration, from clean coal technology. Did the Senator know that technology to clean up coal is being pushed down by this administration instead of up?

Mr. BENNETT. The Senator is correct. If I may make one other comment, the comment has been made that they want wind as the source. I have heard environmental groups have complained that they do not want windmills out on the prairies because they will damage the birds.

Mr. DOMENICI. Let me tell the Senator this: I asked this administration and I asked this Vice President to send to us what their great energy policy has been during the last 8 years. Every

time we say there is none, they say they have got one, they have had one and we turned it down. I would love to see it. I would like to evaluate it and send it out to the energy people and ask them what would it have produced had we given more money to solar and wind than we did. How would that have had an impact on the consumers of America—paying this enormous price for gasoline, this enormous new price for natural gas?

Frankly, I say to my friend from Utah, if Americans don't know it—because we worry so much about Social Security and its future, Medicare and its future, what happens to this surplus, and what happens to the debt—probably the biggest challenge to the American way of life and our standard of living, driving automobiles and finding jobs and factories growing, is that we have no energy policy. And we are going to move slightly and slowly, because of this administration, into a position where we are not going to have enough energy to make America go, or it will be so high that Americans will wonder what in the world happened to us.

Do you know when that will be? That will be when our dependence on foreign sources of energy grows some more. Americans should know that over 50 percent of the crude oil and crude oil products this great Nation consumes comes from foreign countries, from the so-called cartel. It is not all Saudi Arabia. We have South American and Central American countries in there, too. But do you know what. They are not interested in America. They are interested in how much their oil will bring on the market to them. For a few years, they can sit back and say: America, America, when oil prices were \$10 a barrel and you were hopping along and we were broke and we could not pay our debts and could not borrow money—one of the closest things to a financial crisis for Saudi Arabia, whether or not you like the sheiks—financial jeopardy was when oil prices dropped so low. We were thrilled. What do you think they are going to think when the oil prices finally get up where they are making a lot of money and America is crying for it? They are going to say: Where were you when oil prices got down below 10 and hovered around 10 while we cried?

Frankly, I believe if the Vice President's campaign decides that our wonderful ticket for President, because one comes from a mass oil-producing State, and he is proud of it—and the other one, after serving in the highest office in this country, is the president of a 100,000-person corporation that happens to be involved in seeing to it that we continue to get oil and gas in America by working down there in oil patch—frankly, I don't think we ought to assume that this attack makes any sense or that they will do it.

I think what we should do is we should attack Vice President GORE as being the mastermind, the promoter of a no energy policy for America, unless it is wind and solar, which all of us think is marvelous but clearly cannot help America through a crisis.

I thank the Senator for his comments. I know a lot about nuclear power. I am embarrassed for America that we are doing what we are doing on nuclear power. It is so scientifically unreal and untrue, as to the attacks on nuclear power, and it is a shame. The greatest country on Earth in engineering cannot take high-level fuel rods and move them a little bit across the country and put them somewhere for safekeeping. We can't do that. But 1 out of 25 American ships sails the seas, some with one nuclear powerplant—as they have over there in Pennsylvania. Some have one, some have two. They have sailed the seas since 1954. No more in America—except one in New Zealand that denies these ships with fuel rods safely on board access to their ports. There is no risk. There has never been an accident. Here we sit because a few Americans are frightened to death of radioactivity—low, high, or indifferent; just the word “radioactive”—while they live in an radioactive environment on average. All of us are exposed to more low-level radiation than most of the things we are afraid of because there is plenty of it around. But because of them, we sit here and cannot find a way to help the State of Minnesota that has fuel rods sitting there from nuclear power which have been as safe as can be, and we can't get enough votes here to move them across the country. Yet those boats with it move all over the world. We sit here with a President—probably supported by the Vice President—who says no.

Look, if they like to talk about energy policy, I think we ought to just say: Mr. Vice President, the one thing you take into this campaign is that you have been part of an administration with as bad an energy policy as any because, as a matter of fact, you had none.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will my friend yield for a brief question?

Mr. DOMENICI. I would be delighted. I know I said something implicitly about his State, but I didn't mean to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to ask my friend from New Mexico: Would George W. Bush think he would have a different policy and would allow the nuclear waste to go to Nevada?

Mr. DOMENICI. I don't know about that. We will build a short-term nuclear waste facility within 6 to 8 months of the next President, if he is a Republican, because it is totally safe. Whether they put it in Nevada or somewhere else, I don't know.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I want to say again, getting back to the

energy and water bill, that I hope we can work something out on his issue, an issue that bothers some States on his side of the aisle, while on my side of the aisle, the Missouri Senators and the Mississippi Senators and others, have a different view. There is an amendment to this energy and water bill that attempts to solve that problem by not letting some amendments proceed with reference to a Corps of Engineers manual.

If this bill does not become law by October 1, I want to talk about a couple of things that will really be bad for some States, and certainly for my State will not be good.

In Pantex, TX, there are 2,800 employees; there are 7,300 at the Sandia National Laboratory; there are 3,000 in the Kansas City nuclear weapons plant. Moving over to water, the Army Corps of Engineers has 125,000 workers on 1,400 projects.

This is an important bill. I don't want to go up to October 1 and not have a bill and have to say to them that because somebody would not let us bring up our bill—which we could have done, which we could have gotten passed—we are now at October 1 and can't get anything passed. And we are playing a game of who did what to whom. Who keeps the Government open? Who closes it? We could have had this completed. We could have been in conference this weekend and be back from the convention with it finished. It could then go to the President and be signed. I don't go beyond just asking that the problem be eliminated.

I take Senator DASCHLE at his word. There is nothing to this other than he is concerned about protecting a couple of States. I am concerned about a couple of other States or more. I am concerned about keeping in law what has been in the law for at least two previous years.

I again thank the distinguished Senator from Utah for his comments.

I want to respond for a moment to a very good friend of mine from the other side of the aisle. I consider him a friend. For the most part, we run into each other on dairy issues. People do not know that New Mexico is a big dairy State. But clearly, the distinguished Senator, Mr. FEINGOLD, comes from a State with a lot of dairy cows. We frequently are on each other's side, or against each other, principally because that is a farming issue. But today, in some brief remarks, Senator FEINGOLD took his farming issues, and instead of being concerned about his State, got over into my State and into an issue that involves thousands of farmers in New Mexico.

The issue is that thousands of farmers in New Mexico are on a river that runs short of water in dry years. We are growing into a confrontation as to who owns the flow of the river in a dry year, and a silver minnow, which has

been declared an endangered species, which they think currently resides in the extreme southern regions of the river close to the Texas border. Thousands of farmers use it to irrigate small and medium-sized farms, and there are a few large ones.

I hope, if the Senator's constituents, as he said, are concerned about this, they are concerned about the entire problem—the problem of cities that own water in a dry river basin, and the river basin is not always totally moist and running with water. What about the thousands of farmers who under our State law own the water? I think if he clearly understood that, he would say: I choose not to interfere in a contest between the minnows and thousands of farmers and maybe two cities or more. And maybe he would say: I wouldn't like Senator DOMENICI getting involved in that if that were my State situation. Though he is entitled to and can certainly come down here and do that, I hope maybe before doing it—or maybe even now—he would talk with us about the issue, which is a very interesting issue.

For the last 2½ weeks, I have been constantly in touch with the Secretary of Interior seeing what we could do to try to work this issue out. I have put on this energy and water bill something so that water will not be governed totally by a Solicitor General's opinion.

That is the issue. I contend it shouldn't be. We might be able to work that out soon because there are some very serious problems involved that ought to be worked out.

I thank Senator FEINGOLD for his consideration of issues that might affect my State. I think I have been concerned with his. I would truly like to talk to him about this subject because I don't believe it is as simple an issue as perhaps some of his endangered species constituents indicate in their request to him that he get involved in the issue of thousands of farmers in the State of New Mexico and whether they get water.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the 3:15 p.m. vote, Senator HELMS be recognized as if in morning business for up to 20 minutes, to be followed by Senator BRYAN for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senator DORGAN requested time. We would be happy to have Senator DORGAN go after Senator BRYAN. If there is a Republican who wishes to speak, we would be happy to insert that between Senators BRYAN and DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent that Senator DORGAN be recognized after Senators HELMS and BRYAN, and a Republican, if the majority wish-

es to have a speaker in there. Senator DORGAN wishes to speak for up to 40 minutes.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I agree. I ask unanimous consent that each of the Republicans he has alluded to, if they desire to, be able to speak for up to 40 minutes. I don't think they will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the conference report, Department of Defense appropriations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. L. CHAFFEE). Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

(The yeas and nays were ordered.)

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the clerk will report the conference report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany H.R. 4576, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the conference report. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 230 Leg.]

YEAS—91

Abraham	Craig	Hutchinson
Akaka	Crapo	Hutchison
Ashcroft	Daschle	Inhofe
Baucus	DeWine	Inouye
Bayh	Dodd	Jeffords
Bennett	Domenici	Johnson
Biden	Dorgan	Kennedy
Bingaman	Durbin	Kerrey
Bond	Edwards	Kerry
Breaux	Feinstein	Kohl
Brownback	Fitzgerald	Kyl
Bryan	Frist	Landrieu
Bunning	Gorton	Lautenberg
Burns	Graham	Leahy
Byrd	Grams	Levin
Campbell	Grassley	Lieberman
Chafee, L.	Gregg	Lincoln
Cleland	Harkin	Lott
Cochran	Hatch	Lugar
Collins	Helms	Mack
Conrad	Hollings	McConnell